

REMARKS

Applicants have studied the Office Action mailed February 10, 2004 and have made amendments to the claims and specification. It is respectfully submitted that the application, as amended, is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims in view of the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

Objection to the Disclosure

The Examiner objected to the disclosure because it contains an embedded hyperlink (line 11 of p.10).

Applicants have hereby amended the first paragraph on page 10 of the specification, as indicated above, to remove the embedded hyperlinks. The hyperlinks were not needed for enablement of the invention, but merely provided additional background material.

Rejection of claims 24, 28, and 29 under 35 USC §112, 2nd paragraph

The Examiner rejected claims 24, 28, and 29 as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. In particular, the Examiner states that claim 24 is indefinite because it is unclear what protein is to be made, and claims 24, 28, and 29 are indefinite because each claim ultimately depends upon claim 4, and claim 4(d) is directed to a complementary nucleic acid sequence. The Examiner states that it is unclear how one would be able to produce a polypeptide from the complementary sequence, or which of several, short open reading frames encoded by the complement are intended.

Applicants have hereby amended claims 24 and 28 for clarity, as indicated above.

Conclusions

By way of the above amendments, claims 24 and 28 have been amended. As such, claims 4, 8-9, and 24-29 remain pending. The amendments to the claims and specification add no new subject matter and their entry is respectfully requested.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the application and claims are in condition for allowance, and request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejections. If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned agent at (240) 453-3812 should the Examiner believe a telephone interview would advance prosecution of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: May 7, 2004

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